

27

An  
EASIE WAY  
To  
Get Money,  
CUM PRIVILEGIO,  
Without  
Fear or Cumber.

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Proverbs Chap. 1. vers. 11, 12, 13, 14.

*If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for Blood ; Let us Lurk  
privily for the Innocent without cause.*

*Let us Swallow them up alive, as the Grave ; and whole, as  
those that go down into the Pit.*

*We shall find all pretious substance ; We shall fill our Houses with  
spoil.*

*Cast in thy Lot amongst us ; let us have all one Purse.*

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Printed for the Society of Informers, in the  
Year 1671.

THE NEW YORK

# Get Money

Easy Privilege, without

# Fear or Cumber

...all you can work, and will not; and to ...  
...through other ways of ...  
...yourself into Debt, ...  
...your supply, and future ...  
...your hands, that is ...  
...and ...  
...it is no more than ...  
...in ...  
...the people of the ...  
...it is no more than ...  
...in their hearts, as to ...  
...for which the ...  
...and Twenty ...  
...and for the ...  
...is well ...



An Easie VVay to  
**Get Money,**  
*Cam Privilegio,* without  
**Fear or Cumber.**

**T**O all you that can work, and will not ; and to all those that through other wayes of Extravagancy have brought your selves into Debt, Necessity, or other Wants, (for your speedy supply, and future support) there is an opportunity put into your hands, that is both Safe, Profitable, and Honourable, &c. (It is to be Informers.)

First, it is an Easie Way ; it is no more then this, Seek out where there is in any House, Barn, Stable, or Back-side, five Persons, besides the People of the Family ; though they spake never a Word ; yet if you Swear it is a Conventicle, then it is a Conventicle, it is no matter if there were never a thought in their hearts, as to Plotting, or Contriving Insurrections, (for which the Law was made) they being there, its sufficient to have them Fined five Shillings apeece, the first Time, and Twenty Pounds for the House ; and for the second Time ten Shillings apeece, and if the Justice be not well advised, it may be for the

second Time for the House, you may get twenty Pounds more, although the *Act* doth not grant it. And of all this it is said the thirds is yours, this you may easily have; for the Justices are afraid of your power; for you have them under your lee, so they will not much question you, lest they be counted *Fanaticks*; and they know that if they do not please your wills, your power is such, that you may recover fifty Pounds, for your parts, by *Action Suite*, *Bill* or *Plea* in any of his Majesties Courts at Westminster: wherein no *Essoyne*, *Protection*, *Wager of Law* shall Ly. Can your hearts desire more? Who will not be *Informers*? That must have all *Clauses construed most largely*, and *Beneficially*, to their *Justification*, and *Encouragement*.

Secondly, it is Profitable, For beside the twenty Pounds, and ten Shillings apeece for Meeting. Yet if you can but Tempt any by your Questions, or other Provocations to Speak but a Word, to Answer you, it will serve to make him a *Preacher*, and then for the first there is twenty Pounds, and the second forty Pounds, its no matter what is Spoke, or to what Concern, if you Swear, you did hear such a One spake, it is enough to make him a *Preacher*.

And as to the inabillity, there is no danger, that you should fall short of your *Sallery*. For you can by your Power make void (that old and suppoled true Proverb) where it is not to be had the King must lose his Right. But your *Prerogative* is such, that if the Offender hath it not, you can command your Servants, to Levy it on any other that is not an Offender in that nature, provided he be there, otherwise an Appeal will be granted.

And for cetrainry of your *Sallery*, you exceed all *Lords of Manners*, who have onely *Manner Courts*, with *Stewards*, *Reeves*, and *Tennants*. For you have four *Sessions* in the Year, and instead of *Stewards*, all the *Justices* of each County



County, sit to gather your Rents (*gratis*) and all the *Constables, Church-wardens, and Overseers, in the County*, are your *Reeves*, to bring in your Rents, on Penalty of forfeiting five Pounds apiece; and some through your dread have ventured so far as to break Locks (which is a Power more then the *Barrons* of the *Exchequer* can grant to serve an *Execution*) so that none must gainsay your will; and if any *Action* be disputable, all must be Construed most Largely, and Beneficially, for your Justification, and Encouragement; that is, to put you in heart in your enterprizes. The Justices must have a regard to your dilligence: So no Error shall be counted an Error in you, though you Sware there were above four, though you were not there; and this must be a Record and a sufficient conviction against any whom you please to accuse.

And though that People, that do not know your Power, may prate of *Magna Charta*, with his Tryal by two *Juries* of their equals, and in *open Court*, where they may have Councel to plead for them; You may tell them, that that is common *Law*, but this is a special *Law*, made onely for you; and all things therein must be construed in Favour to you; and the *Justices* must have a special regard to your dilligence. And as to *Magna Charta* that allows of so much disputing in publick, by *Lawyers* and *Councillers*, which make a lingering business of a small matter, with their *Writs* of *Error*, and *Removes* to *London*, and then down again: So that a man is along time before he is undone; so that a man is keep in hopes and fear, which is worse then death it self.

Now this special *Law* fore-seeing the inconvenience of the former tract and common road, by which men came to a lingering death, hath provided a more speedy way, by making *Informers*; for now a man (by them) may be

second Time for the House, you may get twenty Pounds more, although the *Act* doth not grant it. And of all this it is said the thirds is yours, this you may easily have; for the Justices are afraid of your power; for you have them under your lee, so they will not much question you, lest they be counted *Fanatics*; and they know that if they do not please your wills, your power is such, that you may recover fifty Pounds, for your parts, by *Action Suite*, *Bill* or *Plea* in any of his Majesties Courts at Westminster: wherein no *Essoyne*, *Protection*, *Wager of Law* shall Ly. Can your hearts desire more? Who will not be *Informers*? That must have all *Clauses construed most largely*, and *Beneficially*, to their *Justification*, and *Encouragement*.

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Convicted in private, (without having so many scoulding *Lawyers*) and have all his Goods taken from him in two hours Time, and the man not know of it before it be done: So a man cannot be long in Trouble, but may be upon a new resolve, and his mind quiet.

And if any shall object against you, and call you *Knights of the Post*, and that you swear for a Reward, and that the *Law* doth not admit of any to swear, that is to have any Profit by swearing. For answer, you may tell them, that the *Knights of the Post* do take mony to swear, for one man against another, to carry a *Trial*: But you do as duty binds you, to swear for the *King*; and if for this, the *Law* allows you a reward, who shall gainsay you? Your *Law* is as good as any other *Law*, which none dare gainsay.

Moreover, you may tell them, That there was a necessity of making this *Law* after this manner; For there was a dull spirit in *Magistrates* and *Officers* every where; and therefore those Former *Laws* became a dead Letter, and died through want of Execution; But since that we have been Booted and Spur'd, we have Spar'd them up, with our Hundred and five Pound Spurs, that we have tried the mettle of all; So that there is none we know of, but what runs a gallop; and some run so fast, by reason of our Spurs, that they put more Spirit in the *Law*, then ever was intended by the *Parliament*.

And moreover, this way of Information is the way of all ways; For it is like to bring all to your Reformation, without they will chose Desolation; So that all the former Limited Acts of great Fines, Banishment, and upon Return Death, all these were of no value; For these though they were great Fines, yet the Distresses were according to Law, to be Praised, and overplusses to be returned; But now, though the Fine be but small in words, yet a hundred pounds worth of Goods may be taken for ten shillings; For there is no overplus to be returned



*Returned back, nor no Goods to be Praised; so there is no value to be put on any thing that is taken; So there is no withstanding the Informers unlimited power; they can command all the Militia, Horse and Foot, with the Deputies Lieutenants, Sheriffs, and other Officers, in every County to serve their will in all things, and at all times; as if the Sabbath were onely made for them.*

Thirdly, it is safe; For the back Door is shut, for that none can appeal from your Servants, nor to them neither, if they neglect but seven Dayes, and they having had a hand in your business; for you have forc'd them to give out Warrants, in the Execution of your power; so there is no fear of letting it pass against themselves: For your swearing offends none, neither can you be troubled; it is the Justices that give the Warrant, and Officers that Execute it; never fear that they will condemn themselves; so all must pass for you; and you can terrifie them with this Clause in the Act, that all must be Construed most Largely, and Beneficially, to your Justification and Encouragement: So do what you will, you need not fear to be condemned; For then they will condemn themselves.

And here you will have trebble Cost too; so you will be Gainers on all hands; And never fear of bringing Suits in other Courts; For your Servants, the Justices, must finally determine all.

Again, consider, besides the power granted you, the dread and fear that People are in, that are under your Task-mastership, how irregularly they break the Laws to please you; So Terrible you are to them, that one Constable shall undo ten men, rather then call your will in Question: Now the Law saith, that rationally (considering there is no order of Praising and returning overplusses) that the levying of the Distresses, should not be in any one Office, or Officers hand, in any

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*Parish*; but doth authorize and require, every *Constable* *Headborough*, *Tything-man*, *Church-wardens*, *Overseers* of the *Poor*, *Respectively* to do it; it doth not say, either of them, or any of them, or the major-part of them; But every of them. And so according to this *Act*, is the *Justice's Warrant* to be made, which is but *Rational*, like the eight or twelve men of a *Parish* to make a *Rate*, and not for a *Covetous Envious Constable* to be *Informers*, *Distrainer*, and *Lewyer*, and never give an account for any thing above five *shillings*; and of that he hopes to have a third *Part* too; and it is a great *Question in Law* whether there be to be a *Plurality of Offices*, especially when the *Informers* is one.

*Follow my fancy; whether wilt thou go? out of the way, well to return again.*

To encourage those new instal'd *Officers*, which regard must be had unto; I say, if any should be so mad, as to pretend a disorderly proceeding, in the taking away of his *Goods*; Yet it will not fall upon you; it will fall upon your *Kassels* and *Slaves*, who do your druggery, who enter into *men's Grounds*, and take away their *Cattle*, and enter into *mens Houses* and *Shops*, and take away their *Goods* and *Tools*, by which they should get *Bread* for their *Children*: but for your parts, who are the *Informers*, you need not take the trouble, nor fear the *Danger*, only to come at the *Sessions*, to receive your *Rents*, of your *Stewards*; it is no question but that these your *Reeves* will bring it in; For they are *responsable Men*; For they are the full *Body of Officers* in every *Parish*, as *Constables*, *Headboroughs*, *Tything-men*, *Church wardens*, *Over-seers*. And moreover, they can take all that a man hath for ten *shillings*, and if one man hath it not, they may take it from another that hath it, and sell good *Peny-worths*; For they shall never be questioned for the *Price*, nor return any back; so you are upon better, and  
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more sure Terms, then the best *Lords in the Land*, for any *Estate* they hold ; For if those men, aforesaid, do Omit or Neglect their *Duty*, there is a *Penalty of five Pounds apiece* for their so Neglect ; and in some *Parishes* there are so many of those your *Servants*, as it may come to *Forty or Fifty Pounds* ; the least *Parish* comes to *Thirty Pounds* ; and of all this, the *Third part* is yours. So let it go which way it will, *Money* will be sure for you ; For all must be most *Largely Construed* to your *Benefit, Justification and Encouragement*.

And never fear *Old Magna Charta's After-claps*, which was made in time of *Popery*, with his publick *Authorizing*, *Scowlding* before the *Country*, with *Lawyers* Contending one against the other, and troubling the *Country* to come to *Affizes and Sessions*,

But this is *New Magna Charta*, that puts you in *Office*, whose *Oath* in a *private Chamber*, is a full *Conviction* ; and must be a *Record*, though it be but before one *Justice* : So you being *Established*, end all the Former *Laborinth of Trouble and Cumber*, which was made in time of *Popish Darknes*.

And if any yet will contend with you about the *Constitutions* of it, the *Nation*, & their *Privileges*, to have their *Accusers Face to Face*, and to be *Judged* by their *Equals*, *Twelve honest Men of the Neighbour-hood*, and in *Case* of any *Corruption* there, to *Appeal* to the *King's Court at West-minster*, or to the *King himself in Chancery*, which is call'd the *Court of Conscience*.

As in answer to that, tell them, the *Parliament* now is of as much *Power* to *Repeal* that, as they were to *make it* ; For they are the *Legislative Power* ; and is not the *Last Will*, and *Testament* of a *dead Man*, the *standing Will*, that must be put in *Execution*. As for having the *Accusers Face to Face*, and *Appeals*, this was *Romish*, in *Bloody Bonner's Time*, and we must not take a president of his *Romish Laws*, for *Christians* :

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What

What a Cumber was about *Paul*, with their Tedious *Laws*? As when the *Captain* of the *Castle* took him from the *Jews*, and Commanded him to be Examined with *Scourging*, and as they bound him with *chongs*, *Paul* said to the *Centurion* that stood by; is it lawfull for you to scourge a *Roman* uncondemned: this their *Romish* way was, to set *Offenders* before the *Council*, and then again to the *Council*, and *Accusers* brought, and then again with two *Hundred* *Souldiers*, and *Seventy* *Horsmen*, and *Speer men*, two *Hundred* to go to the *Governor*, and to defend the *Accused* against his *Adversaries*; And then again to *Cassar*; and all this *Troublesom* and *Chargable Way* was, because they did not know this *quick, and easie Way* of *Informers*.

Fourthly, As to the *Honourableness* of the *Office*, Is it not *Honourable* enough to command *Lieutenants* of *Counties*? *Deputy Lieutenants*, *Sheriffs*, *Captains* of all the *Militia* *Horse* and *Foot*, to follow the *Informers*, where they will? Are not you *Generals*? This is more then to be a *Centurion*, that had only *Souldiers* under him. So much for the *Militia*.

As to the *Civil Power*, the *Justices* are your *Secretaries*, and all other *Parocel Officers*, (as aforesaid) are your *Slaves* and *Vassels*, onely the *Judges* are freed from your *Servitude*, onely they have their *Laws* by themselves, that you are not to meddle with, and you your *Laws* that they are not to meddle with, And is as the *Laws* of the *Meads* and *Persians*, not to be altered, till the *Parliament* see your *Ambitious Tyranny*.

As to the obtaining of this *Office* you need not to be at any great *Charge* or *Cost* to *Purchase* it, nor to run in *Debt* to fit your selves with *Cutermments*, to set you forth: For be you in what *Equipage* you will, all *Officers* *Dread* you. And your very *Name* is enough to make *Hundreds* flee before you; and the very first *Conventicle*, you *Enter*, you may *Commence Doctors*; the *Study* is not long, that you should lose so much time at the *Ends-of-Court*, to *Study* the *Old*  
Magna



*Magna Charta*; that one becomes an Old Man, before he be able to Confirue it ; For the *Egyptians* did figure *Justice* to be a *Blind Old Man*, with an *equal Ballance* in his Hand, and *Students* and *People* have ever since been looking, and waging, which way the *Ballance* would Turn; And some presume to say this was *Old Magna Charta* : But now, as to you, there is no need to study *Contrivances*, or which Way the *Scale* shall Turn; For all may see plainly the *Scale* Turns to you; For all must be *Construed* most *Largely* and *Beneficially* to your *Justification* and *Encouragement*.

And if you will not this believe,  
The *Act* confirms, though some do grieve.

And that there may be no exceptions against any that shall take this *Office* upon them, observe these *Cautions*.

First they must be neither *Payers* nor *Receivers*, in any *Parish*; For then the *Lawyers* will *Object*, that they are *Parties*; For that either of them will have a *Benefit* by it, which they call *Illegal*.

And as for *Profession* they must be no *Jewes*; For they were not to *Covet* their *Neighbours Ox*, nor *Ass*, nor any thing that was their *Neighbours*.

Neither *Gentiles*; For they had *Conscience* accusing, and did by *Nature* the things *Contained* in the *Law*, having the *Law* writ in their *Hearts*.

Neither *Christians*; For they say, they *Forsake* the *Devil*, and all his *Works*, and all the *Lust's* of the *Flesh*; and not to hurt any by *Word*, nor *Deed*; Which is less then *Swearing*.

And as for the *Turk's Profession*, I know not what it is; If there may arise any, so be it; For the *Rest* Profess the *Contrary*.

A true *Bill* is no *Lybil*; And for any in whose *Hands*, this may come, If they fear any *Danger* in it, they ought not to *Conceal* it; But to bring it before some *Justice*, or the chief *Magistrate* of the *Place*, with an *account* how they came to it, and then they are *Innocent*: then if it cannot clear it self, let it lie in *Prison* till it *Perish*.

And so there's an end.

What a Cumber was about Paul, with their Tedious Laws? As when the Captain of the Castle took him from the Jews, and Commanded him to be Examined with Scourging, and as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the Centurion that stood by; is it lawfull for you to scourge a Roman uncondemned? this their Romish way was, to set Offenders before the Council, and then again to the Council, and Accusers brought, and then again with two Hundred Souldiers, and Seventy Horse men, and Speer men, two Hundred to go to the Governor, and to defend the Accused against his Adversaries; And then again to Caesar; and all this Troublesome and Chargable Way was, because they did not know this quick, and easie Way of Informers.

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As to the obtaining of this Office you need not to be at any great Charge or Cost to Purchase it, nor to run in Debt to fit your selves with Cuterments, to set you forth: For be you in what Equipage you will, all Officers Dread you. And your very Name is enough to make hundreds flee before you; and the very first Converticle, you Enter, you may Commence Doctors; the Study is not long, that you should lose so much time at the Ends-of-Court, to Study the Old

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